

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 6 and 8 have been objected to because of the following informalities.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that regarding claim 6, at line 3 the Examiner suggests insertion of --said module-- before "having" or replacing the "," with --and-- to clearly associate the planar top side with the module body. Claim 6 has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application. Therefore, the objection by the Examiner is now moot.

The Examiner also stated regarding claim 8, "said catch arms" lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 8 has been amended to facilitate prosecution of the application, and now reads "said catch elements". Therefore, the objection by the Examiner is now moot.

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It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, and 4-9 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Kuo et al. (U.S Patent No. 5,369,529) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejections have been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 9, lines 5-7 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 6, and 9 call for, *inter alia*:

an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at the top side of the module body.

The Kuo et al. reference discloses an opto-electric module comprising a module body (109) disposed on a printed circuit board (122). An opto-electronic converter (113) is disposed in the module body (109). Furthermore, a connector (101) is provided, which receives one end of an optical waveguide segment (102) and which can be connected to the optical connection of the end with an optical connector interface (134) located at a side of the module body (109). The optical connector interface (134) is located on the top side of the module body (109).

The reference does not show an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at the top side of the module body, as recited in claims 1, 6, and 9 of the instant application. Kuo et al. disclose that the optical connector interface is molded simultaneously with the module body (109) (column 4, lines 8-10). This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the connector interface is a separate part from the module body.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Selli et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,086,263) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Selli et al. reference discloses an opto-electronic module comprising a module body (238) disposed on a printed circuit board (20). The module body (238) has a planar top surface and an opto-electronic converter (210). Furthermore, for optical connection, a connector (Fig. 2) located at the side of the module body (238) receives one end of an optical waveguide (30, 236), which is connected to the optical connector interface (230). The connector interface (230) is located at the top side of the module body (238).

The reference does not show an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at the top side of the module body, as recited in claims 1, 6, and 9 of the instant application. The Selli et al. reference discloses a one-piece configuration, where the module body and the connector interface are one part. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the connector interface is a separate part from the module body.

Selli et al. '363 (13/11/03)

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1, 6, and 9. Claims 1,

6 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 6, they are believed to be patentable as well.

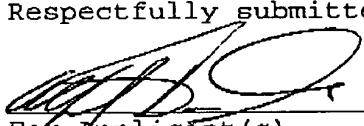
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (twice-amended). An electro-optical module configuration, comprising:

an electro-optical module including:

a module body disposed on a printed circuit board, said module body having a planar top side;

an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at said top side of said module body;

an electro-optical converter disposed in said module body;

a fiber optic waveguide segment having an end region; and

a connector accommodating said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, said connector being connectable to said optical connector interface for optically connecting said end region.

Claim 6 (twice-amended). In combination with a printed circuit board having a surface, an electro-optical module, comprising:

a module body disposed on a printed circuit board, said module body having a planar top side;

an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at said top side of said module body;

an electro-optical converter disposed in said module body;

a fiber optic waveguide segment having an end region;

a connector accommodating said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, said connector being connectable to said optical connector interface for optically connecting said end region;

said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, in a mounted state, being oriented essentially parallel to the surface of the printed circuit board; and

said optical connector interface including a beam deflector for deflecting a beam path between said electro-optical converter and said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment.

Claim 8 (amended). The electro-optical module configuration according to claim 2, wherein said connector interface includes laterally extending grooves formed therein for guiding and fixing said catch [arms] elements.

Claim 9 (amended). In combination with a printed circuit board having a surface, an electro-optical module, comprising:

a module body disposed on the printed circuit board, said module body having a planar top side;

an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at said top side of said module body;

an electro-optical converter disposed in said module body;

a fiber optic waveguide segment having an end region; and

a connector to be connected to said optical connector interface for optically connecting said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, said connector accommodating said end region.